

Shoaib, Mohammed
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Shoaib says he was no 'tool' of CIA

Special to the Hindustan Times
London, June 6 — Mr Mohammad Shoaib, 61, former Pakistani Finance Minister, said in the High Court yesterday that he had never been a "tool" of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency in a plot to overthrow President Ayub Khan.

Mr Shoaib, vice-president of the World Bank in Washington, claims he was libelled by the Daily Telegraph in an article headed "The United States told India of Pakistan moves." It was published on Sept. 13, 1965, a week after fighting started between India and Pakistan.

The article accused him of being a CIA "tool," plotting with the CIA to overthrow his President and the headline implied he gave information to the CIA which it passed to India, claims Mr Shoaib.

He is suing the Daily Telegraph, Mr Maurice Green, editor, and Mr Victor Anant, writer of the article, for damages.

The defendants deny that the article was defamatory and say the words complained of did not suggest any "plot" involving Mr Shoaib.

Opening the case, Mr David Hurst, Q.C. for Mr Shoaib, told Mr Justice Paul and the jury that Mr Shoaib was a friend of President Ayub. He was well known not only in his own country but throughout the political and business world.

"It need hardly be said that at the time the article appeared, he was completely loyal to the Government, to the President and loyal as a patriot of his country."

Mr Hurst said that after the complaint was brought to their attention, the defendants offered no apology. No retraction was published.

Mr Shoaib, MBE, was Finance Minister for eight years until he resigned last August to join the World Bank.